

to alter its attitude to its overseas territories by fulfilling its obligations under Chapter XI of the Charter. Canada believes that Portugal should fulfil these obligations and make provision for significant progress to that end. We have stated these views both publicly and privately.

Mr. Chairman, we would have hoped that the resolution on this item would have been so drafted as to permit a clear demonstration by almost unanimous support of the basic truth that the membership of the United Nations is united in its conviction that the path which Portugal has been following is a wrong one and that the population of territories now under Portuguese administration have the right to enjoy a peaceful transition to independence.

In this and other problems we consider that real progress can be made not on a basis of a contest of votes, but rather in the context of a consensus, based on that united conviction. We will therefore abstain from voting on the resolution before us.